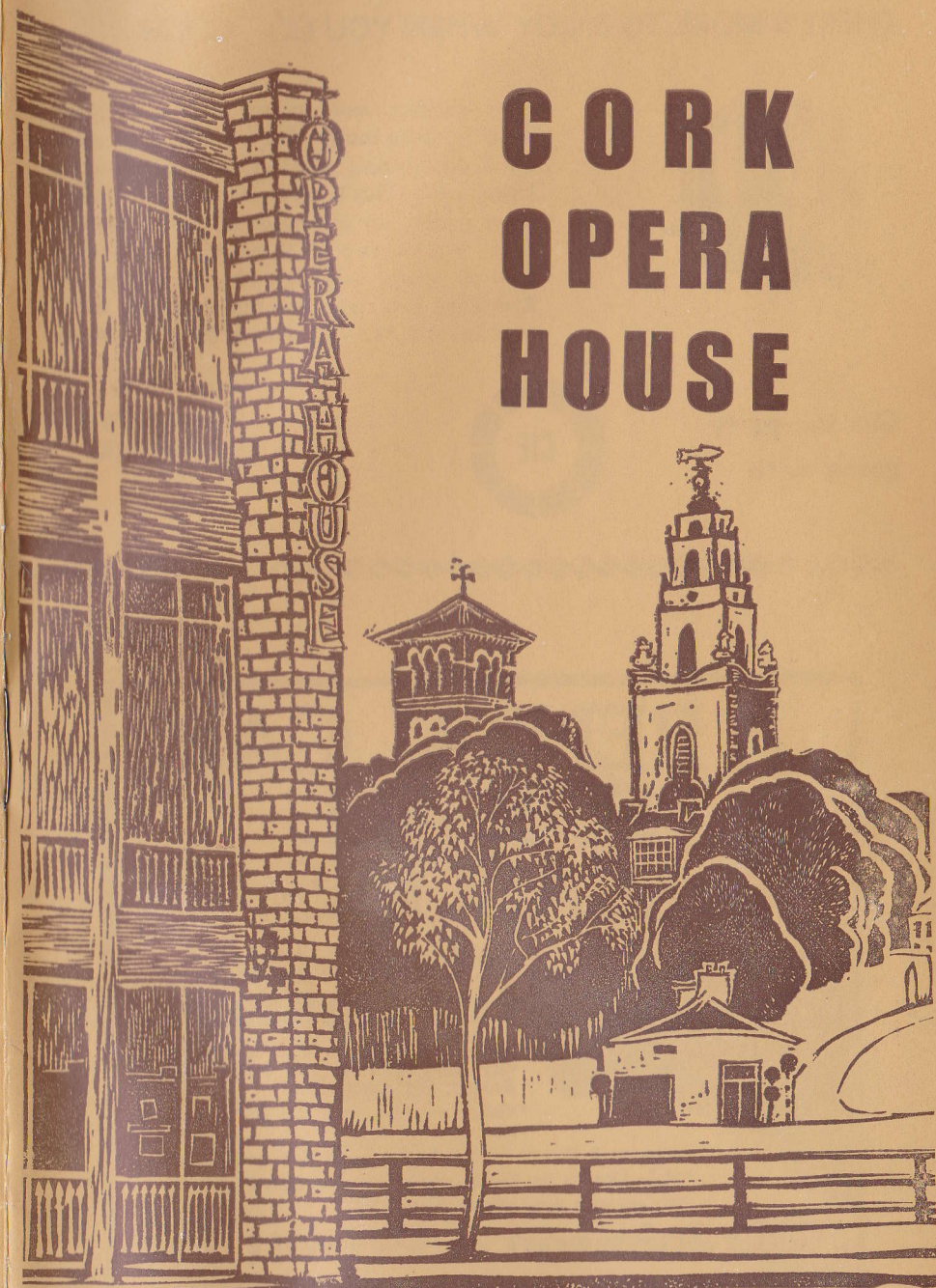
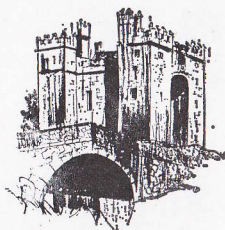


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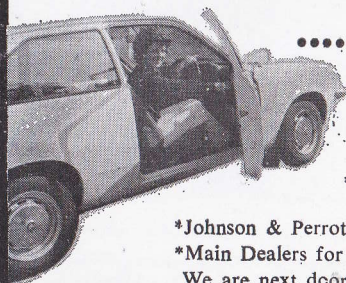
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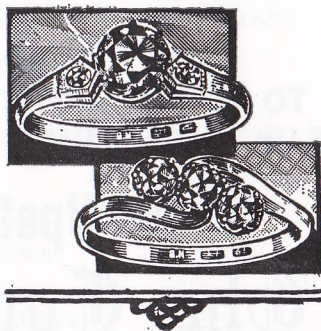
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Wednesday, 19th April

Saturday, 22nd April

Nightly at 8.00

CORK OPERA HOUSE

In association with

THE DUBLIN GRAND OPERA SOCIETY

Present

"ERNANI"

By GIUSEPPE VERDI (1813-1901)

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave Based on "Ernani" by Victor Hugo
First produced in Venice, 9th March, 1844

THE CAST

ERNANI, a bandit chief (Don Juan of Aragon) ANGELO MARENZI
DONNA ELVIRA, niece and betrothed of Silva NADIA SAVOVA
DON CARLO (Charles I, King of Spain;
Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor) ANTONIO SALVADORI
DON RUY GOMEZ DE SILVA, a grandee of Spain AURIO TOMICICH
DON RICCARDO, an esquire of the King BRENDAN CAVANAGH
IAGO, a squire of Silva PETER McBRIEN
GIOVANNA, Elvira's nurse DYMUNA CARNEY

Bandits, Knights and Retainers, Courtiers, Electors, Pages, and
Ladies-in-Waiting

SCENE: Spain in the early 16th century

ACT ONE

Scene 1: A Mountain Retreat in Aragon

Scene 2: A hall in the Castle

ACT TWO

A magnificent hall in the Castle

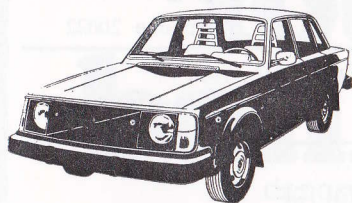
ACT THREE

Charlemagne's tomb at Aix-La-Chapelle

ACT FOUR

A terrace of Don Juan's palace in Aragon

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“ERNANI”

THE STORY OF THE OPERA

ACT I Scene 1 A MOUNTAIN STRONGHOLD NEAR ARAGON

Ernani, who has been outlawed, confides to his comrades in exile that his betrothed, Elvira, is to be married unwillingly tomorrow to her elderly uncle, Silva, and asks his comrades to aid him in his plan to abduct her.

Scene 2 ELVIRA'S APARTMENT IN SILVA'S CASTLE.

Elvira, who has been meeting Ernani secretly, reveals her revulsion to this marriage and longs to be rescued. But Elvira has a third suitor, who is none other than the king, Carlo. She rejects his advances and when Carlo threatens to carry her off and she has snatched a dagger to defend herself, Ernani appears and is recognised by Carlo. Between them there exists an ancient feud. As Ernani is challenging his rival, Silva appears. Finding the two men with his bride-to-be Silva rages at the offence to his pride, challenging both of them to combat. Riccardo reveals Carlo's presence to Silva which saves Ernani from Silva's anger for the time being.

ACT II A ROOM IN SILVA'S CASTLE

Ernani enters in the guise of a pilgrim. Furious at seeing Elvira in her wedding robes, he casts off his pilgrim garb. Silva, however, bound by the rigid Castilian laws of sanctuary which render his guest inviolable, goes out to protect Ernani from his pursuers. Returning he finds the lovers embracing. Even as he rushes at the pair, Iago announces that Carlo and his men are outside. Silva withstands Carlo's demands and hides Ernani even when Carlo causes Elvira to be carried off as a hostage. Under this common wrong Silva and Ernani make a temporary pact against Carlo — once vengeance has been had, the account between Silva and Ernani will remain to be settled. Ernani swears to surrender himself when Silva shall sound the horn which Ernani proffers him as a pledge.

ACT III. AT THE TOMB OF CHARLEMAGNE

Carlo has come here when he learned that the crypt is to be the meeting place of a group of conspirators. The conspirators draw lots and it falls to Ernani to make the attempt on Carlo's life. Carlo confronts his enemies then, opens the door to admit the Electors who offer him the imperial signia. Carlo orders the nobles among the conspirators to die on the scaffold. Ernani reveals himself as a noble and is condemned to die. Elvira arrives beseeching the emperor's mercy. Wishing to prove worthy of the virtues of his great predecessors, Carlo extends his clemency to all, even yielding Elvira's hand in marriage to Ernani.

ACT IV ERNANI'S CASTLE IN ARAGON

Ernani's debt of honour to Silva is still unpaid. The wedding feast of Ernani and Elvira is being celebrated but the masked figure of Silva moves among the guests. Their happiness is soon shattered by the sound of a distant horn. Ernani remembers his pledge. Deaf to Elvira's pleading, Silva offers him the choice of poison or a dagger. Choosing the latter Ernani stabs himself, leaving Silva to exult in the vindication of his honour.

Cork Opera House

Saturday, 22nd April, 1978

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(VERDI)

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